



4.2 County Overviews

4.2.1 Apache County

Geography

Apache County is divided into two distinct parts by the Mogollon Rim. The high country in the northern part of the county is considered Colorado Plateau Shrublands and is characterized by arid, desert-like conditions with mesas and plateaus. The southern part is considered Arizona Mountain Forests and is characterized by rugged mountain area, heavily wooded with pinon juniper and ponderosa pine.

Population

The County's population in 2005 was 73,775. Between 2000 and 2005, the county grew at a rate of 6.26% while the State's growth rate was 17.8% during the same time period. The population of the incorporated communities is shown below. St. Johns is the county seat, but the largest population resides in the Navajo Nation Indian communities. While growing at a relatively modest pace when compared to Arizona's more urban counties, continued growth in the County's incorporated communities can be expected to reflect an overall growth trend in the State. Based on some of the jurisdictions' past and most recent population data, the projected data may appear inaccurate. This discrepancy is due to higher than expected growth and the projection data source. The US Census Bureau's latest published survey is from the year 2000.

Apache County Population, 1990-2040							
Jurisdiction	1990	2000	2005	2010	2020	2030	2040
Apache County	61,591	69,423	73,775	78,229	86,533	93,447	99,190
Eagar	4,025	4,033	4,435	6,024	7,182	8,268	9,309
St. Johns	3,294	3,269	3,865	3,517	3,538	3,610	3,737
Springerville	1,802	1,972	2,065	2,338	2,663	2,975	3,282
Navajo Nation	14,148	14,034	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White Mountain Apache	10,394	12,429	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Note: Figures for 1990, 2000, 2005 from Arizona Dept. of Commerce. Figures for 2010-2040 from AZ DES (projections date from 1997).							
Source: Arizona Department of Commerce, April 2007; Arizona Department of Economic Security, February 1997; US Census Bureau.							

Economy & Labor Force

The civilian labor force in the County was 20,073 in 2005 with an unemployment rate of 11.5%, significantly higher than the State's rate of 4.6%. Services and transportation/public utilities are the major industries with the government sector as the largest employer in the county. The economic base of southern Apache County is well balanced and diversified, and has generated a growing number of skilled workers. The quality of the labor force and low cost of living combine to make the region's average cost of manufacturing the lowest in the state, more than half as much as Phoenix and Tucson (AZ Dept of Commerce, 2007).

Historic Hazard Events

During the development of the original State of Arizona All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, a list of historic hazard events was compiled. Most counties researched local records and governmental databases to update and add records of recent hazards to the state compiled list for use in their plans. Additional hazard records were researched using the same criteria, with the exception that all damages greater than \$1 were included. Therefore, due to the variety of data sources and criteria, it should be kept in mind that the numbers reported reflect the availability of such data from those sources and the numbers are expected to under-predict the losses actually sustained over the past 30 to 40 years. A more thorough search for historic data in future planning efforts is mentioned in the county plans and encouraged by ADEM.

It is our hope that this data coupled with other risk assessment information will prove to be instrumental in assisting the County and State in future planning and mitigation efforts. We believe this can happen by this data accurately indicating which hazards we are most susceptible to; how damaging these hazards can be to us; and the damage costs or costs avoided through future mitigation projects.



Historic Record of Disaster Events in Apache County								
Event Type	Statewide or Multiple County, Incl Apache				Substantially Apache			
	Total	Fatalities	Injuries	Loss \$	Total	Fatalities	Injuries	Loss \$
Dam Failure	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	5,000
Drought	70	0	0	300,324,000	0	0	0	0
Dust/Sand Storms	0	0	0	0	1	10	24	0
Earthquake	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Flooding/Flash Flooding	10	19	115	1,345,224,000	12	0	0	1,000
Hazardous Mat'ls Incidents	3	0	0	493,000	5	1	1	0
Thunderstorms/High Winds	1	0	17	2,000,000	23	1	1	0
Tornadoes/Dust Devils	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0
Tropical	9	37	975	767,428,000	0	0	0	0
Wildfire	18	0	0	39,615,000	21	0	0	0
Winter Storms	5	5	0	245,000	0	0	0	0
Note: "Statewide or Multiple County, Incl Apache" events met the 1 or more of the following criteria: at least 1 injury and/or fatality or Historical Significance. All had at least \$50,000 in reported Losses. "Substantially Apache" events met 1 or more of the following criteria: at least 1 reported injury and/or fatality or Historical Significance. No minimum dollar amount for Losses was used. All information is derived from the best data available at the								
Source: Apache County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, FEMA Approved September 2006.								

Vulnerability

Apache County, containing a prominent Native American population, has a comparatively small number but high percentage of residents that are potentially vulnerable to hazards. There is a disproportionately young population, with 35% (25,821) of its residents less than 18 years of age and 9.7% (7,156) over the age of 65.

Apache County Populations Potentially Vulnerable to Hazards, 2005				
Jurisdiction	Population			
	Total	Under 18 yrs	65+ years	Below Poverty Level
Arizona	6,044,985	1,607,966	773,758	840,253
Apache County	73,775	25,821	7,156	20,288
As a % of County	100%	35%	9.7%	27.5%
As a % of State	1.2%	1.6%	.9%	2.4%
Source: Estimates based on US Census Bureau data, 2007. Poverty Level as defined by US Census Bureau.				

Apache County Dwelling Units Potentially Vulnerable to Hazards, 2005		
Jurisdiction	Housing Units	
	Total	Built Before 1970
Arizona	2,544,806	490,710
Apache County	32,103	8,132
Source: Estimates based on US Census Bureau. Data, 2007.		

Hazards & Mitigation Strategy

Using the results of the County's vulnerability and capability analysis and the goals and objectives, a list of actions/projects was formulated. The actions/projects were then evaluated and ranked using the STAPLEE procedure. Below are the top ranking identified hazards and their actions/projects as indicated in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA on September 9, 2006:

Flooding/Flash Flooding

Action 1: Evaluate and design low water crossing and construction to eliminate flooding hazard on County Road 5270.

Action 2: Evaluate and design low water crossing and construction to eliminate flooding hazard on County Road 6040.



Thunderstorm/High Winds

Action 1: Develop resource materials describing thunderstorm/high wind hazards and how to recognize potential hazards and how to mitigate.

Wildfires

Action 1: Expand education activities to include public service announcements, public access TV and website.

Action 2: Develop neighborhood wildfire assessment and rank at-risk neighborhoods with the goal to provide accurate wildfire information to residents and motivate them to implement personal and neighborhood mitigation measures.

Mitigation Strategy Progress

Through development of this Plan, the need to significantly refine the goals/objectives and actions/projects in our original Plan was evident. We believe this need is a result of the determination to focus the Plan more on natural caused hazards as other hazards are covered in their appropriate plans (i.e. health, terrorism, etc.). There is also much to be said about the increased amount of information available regarding hazard mitigation planning.

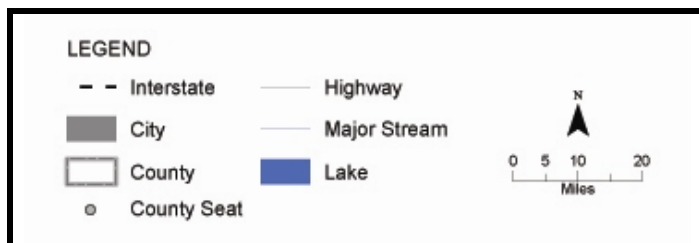
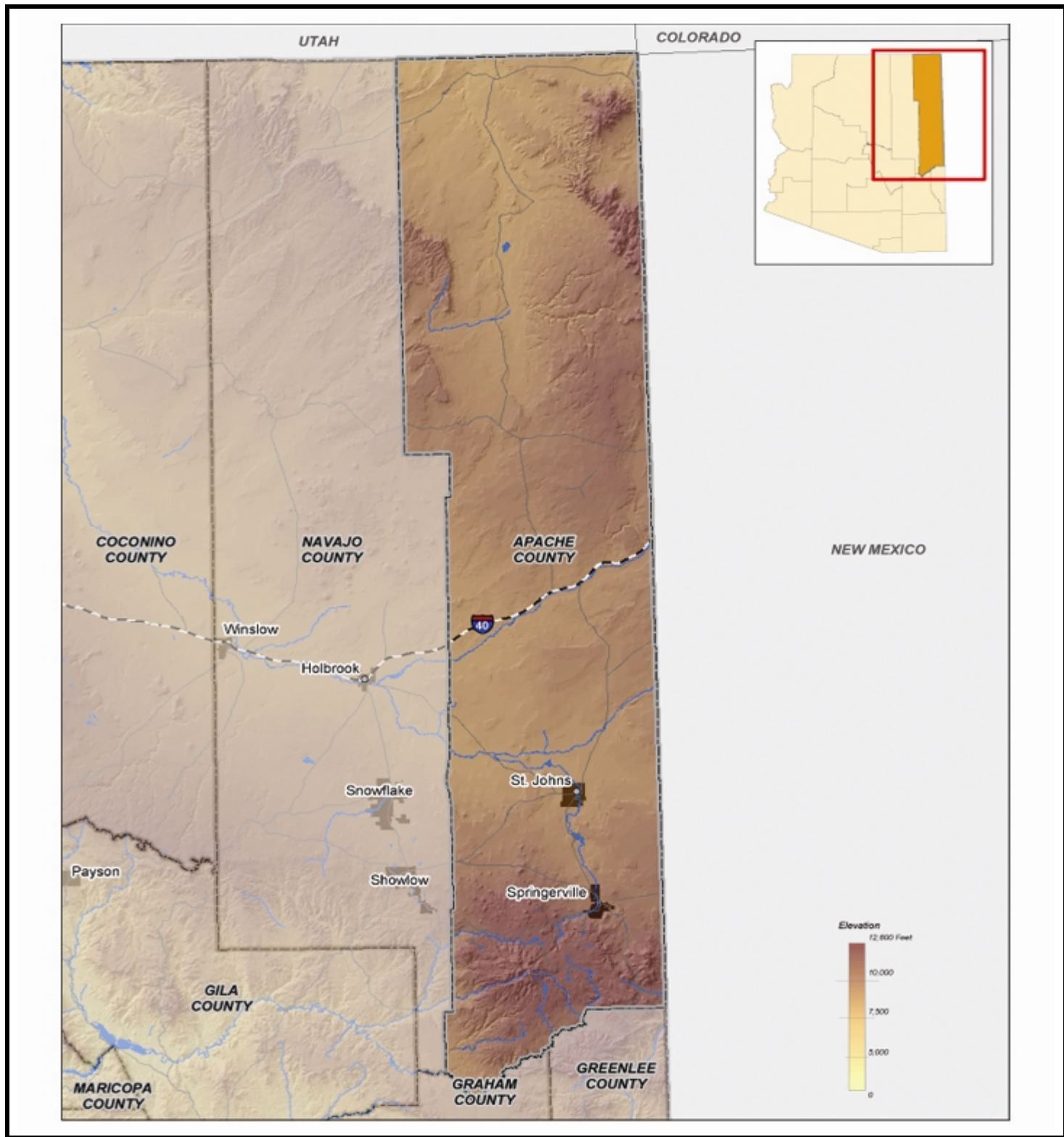
To encourage our jurisdictions to re-evaluate their Plan's Mitigation Strategy as well, each County was asked to indicate their action/project progress since the development of their Plan.


No information was provided for this section by the County.

Other Planning Mechanisms

During their planning process, the County staff reviewed and evaluated their resources and capabilities in the areas of Existing Plans, Policies and Ordinances; Technical Staff/Resources and Financial Resources. Although all resources are important to a community's ability to mitigate the effects of natural and human-caused hazards, we elected to ask the County to complete a survey indicating their legal and regulatory resources to be included in the Plan. We are pleased to receive feedback that reflects awareness of the need for regulations and guidelines that may have an effect on loss reduction. We believe such resources and capabilities can play a critical part in developing and maintaining a more disaster resistant community. The information below was provided by the County in June 2007:

Plan/Policy/Ordinance	Yes or No	Approval Date	Responsible Authority	Plan Use/Comments
Building Code	Y	?	Bldg Dept.	Bldg spec's as applied.
Zoning Ordinance	Y	1985	Planning/Zoning	County required.
Subdivision Ordinance or Regulations	Y	1/2006		
Special Purpose Ordinance	Y	1985	Planning/Zoning	County required.
General or Comprehensive Plan	Y	2002		
Emergency Response Plan	Y	2006	Emerg Mgmt	
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	Y			
Source: Survey from ADEM to County Emergency Managers, 2007.				





State of Arizona
Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Map 3
**Major Features of
Apache County**